



Communicable Disease Branch Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Key Points

January 26, 2021

The North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH) Communicable Disease Branch will be releasing COVID-19 weekly key points that includes information discussed on the weekly Tuesday Local Health Department call. Recordings of the call will not be made available; please use the information below as a summary of the topics presented on the call. As guidance changes, please use the most recent information provided. For questions, contact the NC DPH Communicable Disease Branch 24/7 Epidemiologist on Call at **919-733-3419**.

Important Updates

- **New:** NCDHHS_LHD Weekly Webinar_01.26.2021.pdf (file attached)
- **Updated:** Local Health Vaccine FAQ_1.22.21.pdf (file attached)

State Epidemiologist Update

- LHDs should contact the Communicable Disease Branch (CDB) if they are aware of a positive COVID-19 diagnostic test in a person with symptom onset or first positive specimen collection date ≥ 7 days after completing the COVID-19 vaccine series. Working to link CVMS and NC COVID to automate this going forward.
- CDB will be reaching out to LHDs (at least in the short term) to discuss COVID-19 cases that have been identified as having the B.1.1.7 variant or other variants of emerging concern.
- DPH staff will automatically count an event in NC COVID as a case or death if:
 - Any positive result (antigen or PCR) in which patient is indicated to be symptomatic regardless of other positive or negative results
 - Any death that was listed as symptomatic with a positive result (antigen or PCR) within 21 days of death with no other causes of death indicated in the record
- DPH staff will follow up with LHD if an event meeting either of these criteria is marked as “not a case”

Vaccination Standing Order Templates

Revised Standing Order with main changes:

- combines Moderna and Pfizer
- changed the language about written clearance from a provider if someone is on a blood thinner
- It can be adopted as is, or it can be adapted.
- Standing orders (SOs) must be reviewed by the DON, signed by the medical director, and the vaccinators must have an opportunity to review them before carrying out the order.

Working with non-LHD nurses who are helping LHDs in their vaccine clinics:

- All vaccinators need to have access to the standing order they are practicing under before being asked to start vaccinating.



- Some vaccinators may want to read associated vaccine clinic policies and procedures (P/P), and others may be comfortable being walked through the P/P orally. Check-in with the vaccinator being sent your way to confirm which way they prefer to review P/P.
- Vaccinator onboarding may vary based on whether the person coming to help has recent vaccine administration experience. Beforehand, reaching out to the vaccinator to verify orientation needs and provide copies of the P/P/SO will help reduce confusion when vaccinators arrive onsite.

We recommend you have paper copies of the P/P/SO onsite, so anyone expected to follow them can access them once they arrive.

Find My Testing Place

There were no updates to the 'Find My Testing Place LHD' Excel file weekly from last week. Please send the updated files or any related questions to SVC_Covid-19TestingSites@dhhs.nc.gov